



# CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

1800 Silas Deane Highway-Rear Bldg., Rocky Hill, Connecticut 06070

(860) 324-5726 (860) 324-6285 Fax: (860) 529-4265

Web site: [www.cpcanet.org](http://www.cpcanet.org)

March 6, 2012

## Testimony presented to the Public Safety and Security Committee

Chief Anthony Salvatore, Chief Matthew Reed for the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association (CPCA) represents all municipal police departments in Connecticut as well as police departments at private and state universities.

### CPCA SUPPORTS S.B. 322, AAC Emergency Medical Dispatch Training.

In many communities, the PSAP is a function of the local police department. If the PSAP contracts the services for emergency medical dispatching to an outside agency then local PSAP operators should not have to bear the cost of training local dispatchers to be certified in emergency medical dispatch functions.

### CPCA OPPOSES in part and SUPPORTS in part H.B. 5376, AAC Constables for Fish and Game Protection and the Possession of Firearms on School Grounds.

Allowing Fish and Game constables to be appointed by each municipality is within the rights of each municipality. However, CPCA **OPPOSES** granting them status as some type of law enforcement officer through the completion of an unregulated and managed "basic police training course". To have such training conducted by a certified police officer without approved curriculum or other guidance is inappropriate. This essentially creates another classification of police officer; a police officer who is not required to undergo annual certification as required by law and POSTC regulation.

CPCA **SUPPORTS** Section 3 of the proposed bill (H.B. 5376) which amends 53a-217b of the general statutes. Police officers both on duty and off duty frequently carry firearms. To prohibit a police officer from school grounds with a weapon simply because he or she is "off-duty" is absurd and not in keeping with the public protection of our local police officers. The amended statute will fix this oversight and exempt a peace officer from the existing prohibition.

CPCA **SUPPORTS** H.B. 5378, AAC The Maximum Surcharge for Enhanced 9-1-1 Service. In order that 9-1-1 equipment across the state be maintained to modern service levels, it is imperative that the 9-1-1 surcharge be raised to an amount that will provide the funds necessary to improve the 9-1-1 emergency call infrastructure.



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**CPCA SUPPORTS H.B. 5379, AAC Funding For Police Training.** Funds that have been designated by the legislature to be assessed for the purpose of police training should be segregated from the general fund of the state. Such funds must be used to defray the cost to municipalities for the initial training and on-going training of police officers.

**CPCA SUPPORTS H.B. 5380, AA Requiring The Display of House Numbers.** The clear and consistent display of house and building numbers aids police and other emergency responders in locating persons in distress.

**CPCA SUPPORTS H.B. 2390, AAC Precious Metals or Stones Dealers.** Persons and businesses who engage in the business of purchasing precious metals and stones will now have to comply with the same rules that the legislature passed in the previous session regarding second hand dealers. This change will allow licensing officials to provide a uniform procedure for processing permits and monitoring compliance with statutes. Persons engaged in criminal activity will often seek to sell stolen property to precious metal or stone dealers. The amended statute will provide a better opportunity for crime victims to recover property stolen from them by requiring a 10-day holding period for items purchased by the dealer.

**CPCA SUPPORTS H.B. 5393, AAC The Sale of Law Enforcement Badges .** The law enforcement badge is a recognized symbol of great authority in our society. Prior to selling a law enforcement badge, a vendor or seller must be assured that the badge being sold is being sold to a bona fide law enforcement officer. Requiring the purchaser to provide a letter signed by the agency head is one more step towards ensuring that a law enforcement badge is sold only to a person authorized to have such badge.



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### CPCA OPPOSES H.B. 5381, AAC The Implementation of the Public Safety Answering Police (PSAP) Consolidation Study.

Members of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association have reviewed the PSAP Consolidation Study in painstaking detail. However, the final recommendations of the Study remain elusive and unclear.

While many Chiefs around the state have voiced an interest in and understand the value of PSAP consolidation, the implications of simply "implementing the PSAP study" are unknown.

Municipalities should be able to decide for themselves whether consolidation is conducive to the services that they choose to provide in their communities. The State already provides an incentive for municipalities that choose to consolidate and at this time there are a number of municipalities that are contemplating consolidation.

The commissioning of the PSAP Consolidation Study was a good first step toward reducing the overall cost of 9-1-1 service in the state. However, municipal leaders and emergency service providers around the state should have the opportunity to understand the study, understand the implications of consolidation, and be provided with more details on how consolidation would occur.

Municipal leaders should be able to vet the entire process through their local legislative process in order that they may make a well informed, public decision as to whether they are willing to support this change in their emergency services.

END

